



DIRECTOR'S

OCT 30 2000

OFFICE

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Paul Schell, Mayor  
Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent

cc: Larry Peck  
Cew Atkins  
Al Rammer, R6

October 23, 2000

Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director  
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Dr. Koenings:

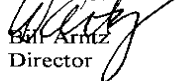
In September, The Seattle Aquarium was honored to receive the prestigious 2000 Education Award for the Beach Naturalist Program. The award was made by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) at their 2000 Annual Conference. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is an important partner in the Beach Naturalist Program. We are pleased to share this honor with the Department and to recognize its contributions to the program.

Beach Naturalists are local citizens who care about Puget Sound beaches and want to protect them. The Seattle Aquarium Beach Naturalist Program was launched in May 1999 with 68 trained and enthusiastic volunteers working as natural history interpreters on several Puget Sound beaches from Richmond Beach to Vashon Island.

During the summers of 1999 and 2000 over 16,000 Puget Sound residents met and talked with trained volunteer Naturalists on seven local saltwater beaches. More than 150 citizens have volunteered as Naturalists in the program. The Beach Naturalist Program is considered a successful model of effective environmental education and protection by the community. Currently, other Puget Sound neighborhoods are looking at the program as a model for protecting saltwater beaches through citizen involvement and education.

Much of the success of this program is due to the strength of community partnerships that help support it in many ways. In particular we are grateful for the talents of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff person, Allan Rammer, who helped plan the program and train Naturalists. We look forward to your continuing partnership with us in the Beach Naturalist 2001 program.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Arnitz  
Director

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